

HIGH DESERT STATE PRISON

Reason for Inquiry: California Penal Code § 919(b) mandates that the Grand Jury “inquire into the conditions and management of all detention facilities within their county.”

The 2009-2010 Lassen County Grand Jury received one (1) complaint from an inmate incarcerated at High Desert State Prison (HDSP).

Background: HDSP opened in 1995 and is located on 325 acres, adjacent to the California Correctional Center (CCC), seven miles northeast of Susanville. The primary mission of HDSP is to provide a secure environment for high security risk (Level IV) and high-medium security risk (Level III) inmates. The minimum support facility (MSF) and the reception center (RC) were originally designed to house 200 inmates. Additionally, the HDSP houses 1120 sensitive needs yard inmates. The HDSP is designed to house inmates with disabilities who require specialized placement to accommodate accessibility issues.

HDSP provides educational programs and work assignments for inmates.

There is a Correctional Treatment Center (CTC) to provide for Health Care.

The 2009/2010, Lassen County Grand Jury toured HDSP on October 27, 2009.

Findings: Overall Assessment for High Desert State Prison as of fiscal year 2009/2010, the following statistics apply:

Number of Custody staff:	997
Number of Support Services staff:	534
Total number of staff:	1,531

Designated Bed Space and Count:

Facility Level	Design Capacity	Count
I	200	304
II	Unavailable	Unavailable
III	300	709
IV	1,516	2,844
Reception Center	200	570
ASU	456	323
Total	2,672	4,750

The above figures can change on a daily basis.

Staffing: The staffing of Correctional Officers at HDSP has continued to improve over the past fiscal year. HDSP has continued to struggle with cuts from the State cutting 15% of Correctional officers pay. The education program is also seeing cuts this year with cuts in staff. The prison offers academic education for the inmate population. Academic classes provide instruction to upgrade math and reading skills, with an ultimate goal of achieving a GED. In December 2004,

HDSP implemented a high school diploma program assisting inmates in obtaining a high school diploma.

Facilities: During our tour of HDSP, the Lassen County Grand Jury visited Facility “A,” the Grand Jury inspected a plumbing chase. The plumbing chases have been repaired; the electrical lights/sockets being exposed to water leaking from the plumbing have been removed and repaired since the last Grand Jury visit, all work orders have been submitted to the Grand Jury showing repairs.

Medical Services: The Lassen County Grand Jury walked through the Correctional Treatment Center (CTC). HDSP operates a 32 bed licensed, Correctional Treatment Center (CTC) which provides emergency medical services, emergency dental care, and mental health crisis care. Currently under the Federal Receivership, the CDCR, Health Care Services Division has been mandated to expand to current HDSP medical services buildings. Each Facility A, B, C, D, and E all currently have a clinic on the yard. Five new buildings will be built on the respective yards, as well as support buildings and a new Medical Administrative Building. (Due to budget cuts, all five buildings were cancelled.)

Community Activities: It is important to note the efforts made by HDSP employees that contribute to the needs of our local community. Fundraising is a large part of HDSP. The warden directs the annual Holiday Food Basket Program at HDSP. The funds raised through this program go to the clients of the Far Northern Regional Center in Susanville and provides Christmas presents to families and children staying in the domestic violence shelter in Susanville. For the last four years, HDSP employees have donated funds and approximately 150 holiday food baskets have been delivered each year to the clients of the Far Northern Regional Center.

The American Cancer Society sponsors a “Daffodils Days” where HDSP employees are offered an opportunity to purchase daffodils to raise money for cancer treatment and research, as well as for promoting education and awareness. This is a popular program according to the information that has been received and employees continue to donate over a thousand dollars a year.

Each year HDSP conducts a chili cook off to benefit the victims of crime in conjunction with the National Crime Victim’s Rights Week (April 18-24). Employees cook their own chili, bring it into the institution and compete for the title of best chili. The cost for employees to sample all of the chili is two dollars per person. All proceeds from the event are collected at the door by representatives from Lassen Family Services here in Susanville. The Warden and Chief Deputy Warden judge the competitors and award a grand prizewinner.

Recommendations: None.

Response Required: None.